There and Back:

The Life and Times of Mary Alwayne Bartolet

Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

This thesis documents the life and times of my paternal grandmother, Mary Alwayne Bartolet from October 1926, when she was born, until the present. In addition to discussing her fascinating life, it will put that life in a historical context, focusing on the events and trends of the 1920s-1950s as she moved from childhood to life as a young woman. Her story includes a very conservative religious background and a stormy rebellion against that upbringing, as she became a part of the New York "jet set" in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Although in many ways she experienced an unrepresentative life for a young Midwesterner, her trajectory can tell us much about American family values and ideals of mobility in the mid twentieth century.

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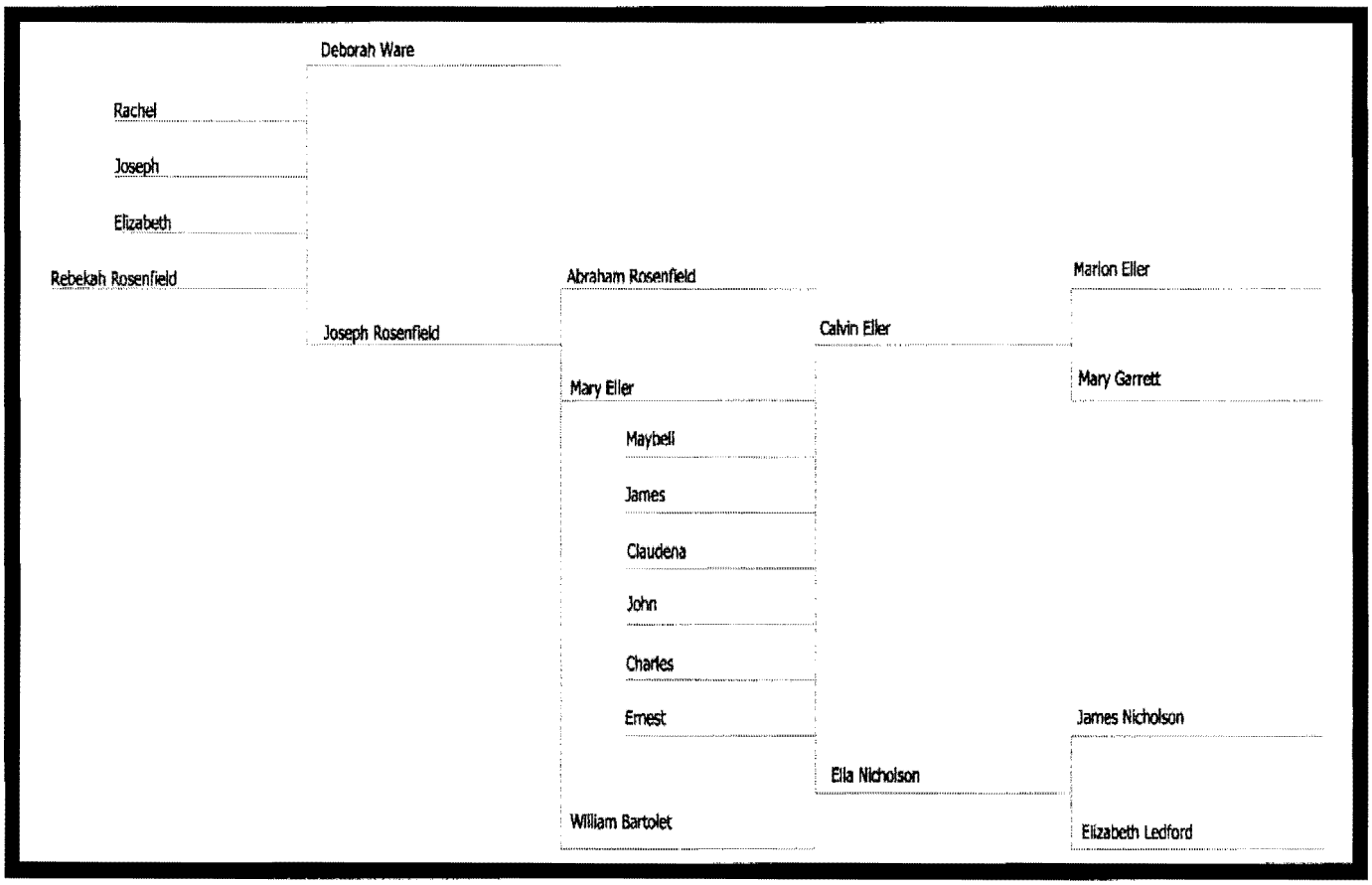
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Introduction

This thesis documents the life and times of Mary Alwayne Bartolet. There are two strands presented—her life, from birth up until the present, and historical events that occurred during the 1920s through the 1950s. While the historical events occur in chronological order, they are presented here in a random fashion. Although this is not a conventional presentation, it suits how each of us may experience history: randomly. The presentation of her life is broken up into sections: the late 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, the 1950s, and the 1960s onward. In addition, each section, except the 1960s, is accompanied by a discussion of the historical and cultural events of the time.

Prelude

This is the story of Mary Alwayne Bartolet, my paternal grandmother. Alwayne is of German and French background; her mother's side was German, while her father's side was German and French. Her mother, Ella Haseltine Nicholson, was born in Towns County, Georgia on June 20, 1896. Ella's parents were Elizabeth "Liza" Ledford and James Milton "Dee" Nicholson. Ella's father was a Justice of the Peace. Alwayne's father, Calvin Smelique Eller, was born in Hayesville, North Carolina on November 9, 1882. Calvin's parents were Mary Garrett and Marion Eller. Together, Ella and Calvin had six children, Maybell (still-born: born January 13, 1915), James (born January 31, 1916), Claudena (born November 4, 1917), John (born July 15, 1920), Charles "Chuck" (born November 15, 1922), and Ernest "Ernie" (born September 28, 1924) in North Carolina and Georgia. The mountains made it quite difficult to farm; thus, it was very hard for her father to make a living. Therefore, he became a "bootlegger" and made "moonshine." Her mother gave him an ultimatum for the simple reason that the government was searching for him. She sternly told him, "I think you need to go to

Atlanta or go to Ohio to see if you can find a job and make a living for us. So, I don't have to worry about you getting drunk and killed or someone chasing you."[1] Hence, at the age of 44, her father went and walked the streets of Akron, Ohio in search of a job. He didn't find a job there, so he went to Canton and found a job with Timken Roller Bearing, Co. After he was settled, in 1925, he sent for the rest of the family to come north to Ohio. During 1925, Alwayne's mother and siblings moved to Canton, Ohio. On October 10, 1926, Mary Alwayne Eller was born. The world in which Alwayne was born would prove to be a world characterized by much struggle and desperation as the Great Depression occurred.

1920s

Distractions

In the 1920s, with peaceful relations abroad and prosperous times at home, Americans were able to turn to pleasures provided by the automobile, radio broadcasting, motion pictures, sports, and other indulgences. The love affair with cars began in the twenties (Burg 9). Cars had an effect on several areas of American life. Cars not only helped the economy, but they changed the way Americans lived: "Cars brought mobility to farmers, forced the revamping of city streets, accelerated the development of suburbs, and may have provided a major impetus for revolutionizing women's fashions (with skirts rising to knee length)" (Burg 10).

Radio

Along with the love affair of the car, the radio was born in the 1920s. The popularity of the radio created another new industry. Radios became such a large part

[1] The majority of the information presented was gathered from my paternal grandmother, Mary Bartolet.

of life that Congress established the Federal Radio Commission. Besides the increasing popularity of the radio, motion pictures became popular. Again, another giant industry was born. The national pastime continued to be baseball. Men and women continued to be spectators but took part in tennis, swimming, golf, and bowling (Burg 10).

Artistic Expression

Other areas, namely artistic expression, experienced change as well. Painting, architecture, and music had significant developments. Some of the writers of the "lost generation" included F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, and E.E. Cummings. The Harlem Renaissance also occurred during the twenties, which was a literary movement centered in New York City's black ghetto of Harlem. Furthermore, Harlem was a major source of jazz (Burg 12). Major achievements occurred in music. During the 1920s, the "jazz age" to F. Scott Fitzgerald, jazz was introduced through Dixieland jazz music, and jazz flourished in new styles (Burg 13). Overall, the 20s were a time of change.

Late 1920s-1930s: Desperation and Hard Times

Pitching In

Alwayne was born into a period that experienced much difficulty and hardship. She had been alive for three years when the Great Depression began. Providing for the family was truly a family effort. Alwayne and her brothers did their part to help increase their family's income. During the early 1930s, using a wagon John had won (at the time Ernie was 7 years old and Alwayne was 5), Ernie and she would sell corn from a wagon, a dozen ears for a quarter. Although it was not much, the money she and Ernie made

allowed her father to buy coffee and flour. Besides selling the corn, her brothers, Chuck and John, had a newspaper route.

New Horizons and Getting By

Moving North brought about change for Alwayne's family. Living in Ohio was a new experience for Alwayne's family. Her family really did not know much about the area. Moreover, they could not farm because they did not have the necessary land. Land was not as abundant. While they had lived in the South, her parents had a 35 to 40 acre farm; however, when they settled in Ohio in 1925, they had no choice but rent land from her uncle so they could have at least a garden (They moved to Canton because Alwayne's father needed to find a job and support his family respectively). This allowed them to be able to grow a portion of their own food. By being able to farm, her family was able to comfortably sustain themselves. Although Alwayne's family was not the richest family, they were better off than some of the Great Depression families.

On the land that Alwayne's father rented he grew corn, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers. In addition, he grew fruit trees. The family was able to enjoy apples, peaches, and grapes. He sold a bushel of peaches for $1.50 to $2.00. Being that it was hard times, they did not want to waste anything. They wanted to preserve everything they could by canning. Naturally, Alwayne was taught the canning trade at a very young age, and by the time she was ten, she knew how to cook, iron, and wash. In the South, they butchered their own meat and had a smoke house; on the other hand, when they moved to Canton, they were no longer able to care for animals. During the Great Depression, Alwayne's family taught her that everything was to be valued and nothing taken for granted. Alwayne came to know that she was expected to contribute as much as she could to her family. Moreover, Alwayne knew that if something needed to be

done, she was expected to fulfill the family's need. Alwayne's family was very thankful for everything they had. The family never threw anything away. If there was a scrap of something available, they tried to use it any way they possibly could. For instance, if their shoes were beginning to become worn, they would put cardboard in the soles.

Once in a while, her parents gave the children a special treat. If her parents had enough lard, they would make donuts with granulated sugar on them. This was not something that was a regular occurrence, happening maybe once a month. At Christmas time, the children were fortunate if they received an apple or an orange and nuts in a stocking. Though this would be considered very little to children today, it meant very much to Alwayne and her brothers and sisters. For Christmas, the churches and schools would make baskets to give to the poor. If her family was lucky, they would be able to get someone's old Christmas tree. People, including her family, had very little. She had only one pair of shoes, thus when she came home from school or church, she would take her shoes off and go barefoot. Her parents had a wash pan outside so that they could wash their hands and feet off before coming inside.

The Great Depression put extra responsibility on children if both parents worked. This was somewhat the case for Alwayne's family; her father worked in the factory. Although only Alwayne's father was the only parent to work outside the home, the children still were required to help. In Alwayne's family, her older sister, Claudena was sometimes responsible for some of the household affairs. She was required to be in charge when their mother, who suffered from asthma, was too ill. To Alwayne, it seemed that their mother was sick all the time. Signs were put in front of the house that read: "Sickness—Be Quiet." When Claudena was only 4 or 5 years old, she would push a chair over to the stove and cook the family meals. Washing dishes was a chore shared

by all the children. One child would wash, one was responsible for drying, and the dishes were put up by another.

Often, Claudena would get very mad at Alwayne for playing outside instead of being inside working with her. Alwayne did not want to help her sister or mother. As a result, she became very rebellious because she thought she should be allowed to play outside. In addition, her mother would scream for her to come help wash the clothes. The one article of clothing that Alwayne always dreaded was the dirty hankies. Washing clothes was a very difficult chore. Alwayne would use a washboard to wash the clothes and a ringer to dry the clothes.

Pastimes

When Alwayne and her siblings were not doing household chores, they would find various ways to occupy themselves. They would play jacks, marbles, jump rope, hide and go seek, red rover, and kick the can. In addition, the kids would huddle around the radio to listen to *The Shadow*. Kick the can involved putting a can in the middle of the street and the two groups of children would try to kick the can away from the others. Mothers would save tin cans to be used for the game. The game was similar to hockey, and they used broomsticks. When the street lights came on, Alwayne and the other children knew it was time to go home. The children would either play in the street or an empty field. They would sometimes have to warn each other if an automobile, "Galoppy," was coming down the street. They would excitingly yell, "Get out of the way! Watch out for the Galoppy!" Another pastime available was the movies; however, Alwayne was not allowed to see movies because the Church of God disapproved. Alwayne saw her first movie with Shirley Temple when she was 10 or 11 years old. Her neighbors asked her parents if it would be alright, and they consented.

New Deal and WPA

During the Great Depression, Alwayne's family, like other families, benefited from President Roosevelt's New Deal policies and programs. The Work Progress Administration (WPA) in particular helped her family the most. Her father was able to acquire work through WPA. Being able to work enabled him to preserve some of his pride and dignity. Alwayne's family was considered to be part of the lower class. Be that as it may, her father possessed a considerable amount of pride. Since it was hard times, there was a charity called "Family Service," which would provide groceries if the charity workers thought a family was in great need of assistance. Although this service was available, Alwayne's family never took advantage of it; Alwayne's father would never accept charity.

School Days

Living in the mountains, Alwayne's parents really could not send their children to school; however, when the family moved to Ohio in 1925, they made sure she and her siblings went to school and received a proper education. Besides hating to do house work, she very much disliked school. Her grades were not what you could say "spectacular," and she was held back a year. Being raised with four brothers, she was a first class tomboy. Once, when she was only 3 or 4, her neighbors bought her a baby doll, her first and last, and a scooter. She threw the baby doll across the room, and she jumped on the three-wheel scooter and rode all through the house. This type of tom boyish behavior continued into her high school years.

Marble Tournament

Alwayne knew how to play football, softball, and marbles. At the time, marbles was a famous sport. Her father wanted her to be more like a girl, so she was not really

allowed to shoot marbles. On one occasion when she was in elementary school, the boys really wanted her to participate in the all-school marbles tournament. She did not really want to play because her father disapproved; in fact, her father had taken all of her marbles. Her father wanted her to start behaving like a lady; he wanted her to play the piano. He paid $0.25 a week for her lesson. She told the boys, "My father wants me to be a lady." The boys jokingly responded, "Come on Eller. You'll never grow up to be a lady." She still bargained with the boys. Thus, she said, "I don't have a marble, but tell ya what. If I find a marble going to school, I'll join the marble tournament."

As fate would have it, she found a black and yellow marble, which had just enough of a knick in it to be a real good "shooter." She was very surprised that she found the marble because she was almost to school. That day at the marble tournament, she beat 120 kids and became the champion of her school. The newspaper was there, and her picture was taken. The following day after school, when she got home, he said, "Sookey." She knew then she was in big trouble. She nonchalantly said, "Hi, Daddy." She knew they must have put her picture in it. He replied, "Do you know this girl on the front page here?" She knew that she could not lie to her father, so she answered, "Yeah." He enthusiastically responded, "Congratulations! You and Hitler were the only ones to make the front page!" With a tint of disappointment in his voice, he later asked, "What did I tell you about those marbles?" In the end, Alwayne was not punished. In fact, her parents made an eight-foot "pot" in the basement so she could practice for the next year's tournament.

10-Mile Walk

Overall, grade school was exciting for her. When she was in the 5th grade, she can remember a time when she really wanted to go to the skating rink. Her teacher gave her

ten cents and a bus pass so she could go skate. Alwayne asked her mother if she could go, and of course, her mother said no. Being the rebellious child that she was, Alwayne disobeyed her mother and went anyway. She did not have a good sense of direction, and after she was finished skating, she left the rink and went north instead of south. She walked from 4 to 9 p.m., about ten miles. Her father had just bought her a new pair of shoes, and by the time the evening was over, the heels were completely worn off. She stopped walking when she noticed a filling station was open. Alwayne knew she had to tell the man working there that she was lost. After finding out that she was lost, the man called her neighbors, and her father came to North Canton to take her home. (It would be 1938 before Alwayne's family would have a telephone. Moreover, when they finally had a telephone, it was a three-party line. Whenever they wanted to use the telephone and they heard someone else, they had to ask if the phone call was an emergency. Having a private line was extremely expensive at the time.)

Alwayne was soaked when she walked inside the house because she had walked ten miles in the rain. When her mother saw her, she said to Alwayne and her father, "She aint' goin' to be nothing but a damn whore." Her father loved her, thus he stood up for her: "I oughta break your damn neck. That baby don't even know what you're talking about." This one instance demonstrates the relationship Alwayne had with mother, which was not very good. When the family moved to Ohio, Alwayne's mother believed that she was finished having children. Therefore, Alwayne's mother did not want her and did not show her a large amount of affection. It would be later in life that Alwayne and her mother would reconcile their relationship.

Church of God

Alwayne's parents were very stringent, especially her mother. They belonged to the Church of God; however, when they lived in the South, they belonged to the Baptist church. (The Baptist Church in Canton did not treat Alwayne's family politely. The church had the family sit in the back because they had a large family, and the church believed that the children would be a "nuisance.") She was very limited as to what she could do. Fortunately, her parents were musically inclined. Her father taught the children music, and her mother played the piano. Alwayne loved to sing and dance; she could get away with singing, but the Church of God believed that dancing was a sin. All their "rules" were man-made; they were not scriptural. Furthermore, their sermons were hell-fire and brimstone preaching. Alwayne was basically not allowed to do anything, which included singing, dancing, going to the movies, and wearing make-up. There was no possible chance that she would be allowed to take dance lessons, and she so badly wanted to take them. If you danced, the church thought you were going to go to Hell.

Being involved with the church was a very important part of her family's life. Her mother did a lot of work for the church in the afternoons. When Alwayne was just four years old, she was left home to be by herself. She was supposed to stay in her bedroom until her mother came home. When her brothers would come home, one of them would come into her bedroom and want to pretend to play house. He would say, "You be the mommy, and I'll be the daddy." He continued to sleep with her until she was seven. It was a long time before her parents found out, and after her father came to know what was happening, he was shocked and had a serious talk with her brother. This wasn't the only time one of her brothers had or tried to have sex with her. When she was 14,

another brother thought she was cute looking, and he tried for six months to have sex with her. This was a traumatic time in her life, and the behavior from her brothers continued until she was a senior in high school. Her brother's behavior ceased when he left home because he had enlisted in the service. Her parents were not very educated people. Alwayne's mother had completed the 4th grade, while her father had only completed the 3rd grade. They didn't know how to help her. Alwayne's sister was not available to lend help. Claudena was in Anderson, Indiana, attending Anderson Theological Seminary. Thus, there was no one for her to talk to. She did not dare say anything at home or school. No one would believe her. The 1940s would prove to be a time of change and excitement for Alwayne.

1930s

A New Beginning, a New Deal

Following the 1932 election, the transition from Hoover to Roosevelt was much more than what usually transpired between former and new presidents. During his first term, Roosevelt had two New Deals: the First New Deal 1933-1934 and the Second New Deal 1935-1936. The Second New Deal was a bit like "administrative housekeeping" (Burg 147-148). Radio was a great help to Roosevelt; it helped him have a unique relationship with the American people. Roosevelt used the radio for his "Fireside Chats." The American people relied on these chats because usually action and observable results occurred after the chats (Nishi 193).

A new beginning was marked by the 1932 election; Americans were ready for relief from the Great Depression. The first issue Roosevelt tackled was the banking crisis (Burg 105-107). The second issue Roosevelt tackled was a balanced budget. The Economy Act was passed on March 11, 1933. Other acts included: the Federal

Emergency Relief Act, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Thomas Amendment, the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act, and the Tennessee Valley Authority Act (Burg 108-109).

Farmer's Trauma

Roosevelt's policies were welcomed as acceptable, desirable, and necessary. Another area that Roosevelt focused on was the farmers' trauma. Price support programs were created by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Although the AAA had good intentions, it failed to resolve the farm crisis (Burg 110-111, 113). Another piece of legislation to help the farmers was the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. This act helped farmers by creating a program of payments. Farmers would receive the payments when they removed land from cultivation of major crops, such as corn and wheat. This would seemingly restore soil fertility (Burg 152-154). The farm family had the advantage of being able to grow its own food; however, overproduction was the main problem (McElvaine 27). The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) brought about major success for the First New Deal (Burg 116-118). In addition to the CCC and TVA, a new agency, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created. This agency would be responsible for building or renovating thousands of schools, hospitals, and playgrounds. The youth of America were also helped by the WPA's National Youth Administration (Burg 149).

Troubles of Blacks

During the mid-thirties, lynchings of blacks rose, exceeding 20 or more per year; however, there were only two lynchings in 1939 (Burg 202-5). Furthermore, the southern tenants and sharecroppers that were impoverished were black. Roosevelt possessed the ability to convey to blacks the same sense of caring that he transmitted to

the white (McElvaine 28-9). Both black and white Great Depression victims had a love for Roosevelt (McElvaine 81).

1936 Election

As for the 1936 election, Roosevelt and Garner were once again nominated (Burg 155-6). For the 1936 election, Roosevelt wanted to lend his support to liberal candidates and make his opposition to conservatives within his own party known (Burg 200-202). Roosevelt came off even stronger in 1937 after his triumph (Burg 183-4). Roosevelt was not the only one to experience success. Labor victories occurred at GMC and U.S. Steel. The victories established the viability of industrial unionism. Big changes occurred that would greatly benefit the workers (Burg 186).

Signs of War

As 1938 began, actions by the Nazis and the British appeared to point toward war (Burg 196-7). Likewise, during 1938, seeds of the Holocaust would be planted (Burg 199). The end of 1938 posed a threatening future of deadly foreign events for the American people. Although Americans wanted to remain neutral and not become involved, this would not be possible. The recession reminded the American people how difficult were the economic and social problems America continued to face (Burg 208-9). The year 1939 was a pivotal year. Events in 1939 would later spawn World War II, The Cold War, communist domination in Eastern Europe and China, and finally the collapse of communism in Europe. War was already on the mind of Roosevelt (Burg 235-7). A headache would arise out of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, a nonaggression pact signed by Germany and the Soviet Union that bound the two nations to avoid armed conflict with each other (Burg 243). The war began on September 1, 1939 as the German

Blitzkrieg stormed into Poland (Burg 243-6). Following Great Britain and France's declaration of war, Roosevelt expressed his hope that the United States would not become involved, and he assured the American people that the administration would try to avoid involvement (Burg 244-6). Thus, the 1930s ended on a foreboding note.

1930s Culture

Desperation

During the 1930s, many people were desperate for work, and they were willing to do whatever jobs came their way. Most of the time, the only jobs available were odd jobs painting, cleaning, or picking fruit. Get-rich-schemes were employed by those who could not find regular jobs. Furthermore, marathon dancing and flagpole sitting were ways individuals could get into the record books and earn a little bit of money. Most of the time, participants in marathon dances did not earn the amounts of money they had expected. The only individuals who made money were the people running the dance (Nishi 87-8).

Survival

The Great Depression years prepared Americans on the home front for the sacrifices of wartime. During the Great Depression, many people learned how to can vegetables and make wine. Economical meals were the subject of special cookbooks, soups became popular, and people learned to enjoy Jello (Kaledin 17). The Great Depression was greatly characterized by desperation. Some lost hope. People broke into empty buildings to find a place to sleep. Fathers and older children stayed out of the house while the younger ones were fed. In addition, people stayed in bed to keep warm and inactive; this helped them conserve both fuel and calories. Children took turns, day to day, at eating. Docks were searched where garbage scows were loaded.

People lived for the moment; they did not think of the past or the future. Pleasures were lessened, and sexual relations were deemphasized (McElvaine 157).

Approximately one-quarter of America's workers, between 13 and 14 million people, were without jobs by early 1933. When families were included, this number expanded to 40 million (McElvaine 7). Wages were barely adequate (McElvaine 17). Of the entire Great Depression period, the winter of 1932-3 was the most desperate. Throughout the 30s, unemployment would remain high (McElvaine 21).

Children of the Great Depression

Children and adults both suffered during the Great Depression (MacAustin xi). The children suffered in various ways. A large amount of children were homeless and without food. Approximately, a quarter of a million children were homeless, and in some regions, as many as 90% of the children were malnourished (MacAustin xi). Although the children experienced hardships, many of them attempted to contribute to their families by being a part of the workforce. Children worked in factories and some stayed home from school so that they could help their parents with the farm. In 1933, at least 15 million people in America were unemployed. Moreover, at the lowest point of the Great Depression, thirty-four million, men, women, and children, 28 percent of the American people, were entirely without income (MacAustin xii). Thus, the affect of unemployment was widespread. Children who were not part of the workforce found ways to occupy themselves. They played with toy guns, marbles, and jacks; visited toy libraries; and had push-mobile races, sack races, and tree-sitting contests (MacAustin, photograph).

"Okies"

As if enduring through the Great Depression was not enough, there were groups of children who were mistreated by their school teachers. Specifically, children traveling from Oklahoma, "Okies," were looked down on. A twelve-year old "Okie" wrote the following poem, "the teachers nag—and look at you—like a dirty dish rag" (MacAustin, photograph). Not all teachers mistreated children, there were a few compassionate teachers who cared about their students and proper nourishment; however, food was very scarce in some homes. "It's my sister's turn to eat" was the response of an Appalachian child to a concerned teacher when the student was told to go home and get something to eat (MacAustin, photograph). This child's response shows the severity of the food shortage.

Employment Woes

Although children worked, their wages were not extremely high. Children working in factories earned as little as 2 or 3 cents an hour, and a good wage was 8 cents. Thus, if a child worked fifty to sixty hours a week, a highly paid, older child worker, could add $5 to the family income. In fact, the family income consisted primarily of the child's wages (MacAustin xvi). While the children's wages were very little, their earnings had considerable buying power. For 53 cents, one could buy approximately 2 ½ pounds of bacon, 10 loaves of bread, almost 4 packs of cigarettes, or a 10-pack of razor blades (MacAustin xvi).

Children were largely free from the self-blame and shame that was common among their parents. During the '30s, many Americans saw children as a burden. For the first time, the number of children under ten in the population declined. Until 1942, the birthrate remained below its 1930 level. Children were forced to mature rapidly;

some of their concerns were often paying bills, avoiding eviction, and providing clothes for their family (McElvaine 115).

"Waste not want not"

Women did their part for the family by preserving what they had. Many middle class women made their own clothes, mended their families' socks, turned over the frayed collars of shirts, and took in other people's laundry during the 1930s. During this period, making what you needed, not buying it, was common. People had little cash, and most believed that waste made want. Delivering newspapers, babysitting, or mowing lawns allowed middle class children to earn extra money. Teenagers began to define themselves as useful adults, and they began to create a teenage culture during this time. War films played everywhere, and literature helped people to understand the Great Depression (Kaledin 17-19).

Shared Pains and "Dust Bowl"

Individuals from all walks of life were suffering and experiencing difficulties. Compared to their urban counterparts, farmers were having even more difficulties: the prices were low, and they were driven down because there was a surplus of goods. A bushel of wheat sold for $3 in 1920, and by the end of 1932 a bushel could only sell for 30 cents. In Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Colorado, the farmers' problems involved overcultivation and drought, which had created an environmental catastrophe that resulted in millions of tons of topsoil being blown in the air (Nishi 18-19). This became known as the "Dust Bowl." Authors tried to capture the emotions of the time. For example, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* told the story of a family from Oklahoma who migrated west. Steinbeck wrote:

> The moving, questing people were migrants now. Those families which had lived on a little piece of land, who had lived and died on forty acres, had eaten or starved on the produce of forty acres, had now the whole West to rove in. And they scampered about, looking for work; and the highways were streams of people, and the ditch banks were lines of people. Behind them more were coming (Nishi 19).

By 1933, over 150,000 farms were being lost to foreclosure every year. When farms were auctioned off, the auctions became known as "penny sales" because properties went for pennies on the dollar. The farmers formed the United Farmers' League, which supported the farmers by offering relief supplies to destitute farmers as well as organizing protests (Nichi 130). Even before the stock market crash, farms in the Midwest and South had problems. The land had become worthless because of drought and overcultivation. The Great Depression made the situation worse. Farmers moved their families to other towns in hopes of finding jobs (Nichi 141).

While the twenties had experienced times of plentiful precipitation, the thirties reversed this cycle. The year 1931 had pockets of drought; the drought spread in 1932; it intensified in 1933; and in 1934 the drought settled across the entire region from Kansas to Colorado and northern Texas. In the end, the drought affected a dozen states. Families packed their belongings and moved on, some to the cities, others to California. Many of them were called "Okies" because many of the families were from Oklahoma (Burg 114-115).

"Hoboes"

Along with the farmers going to other cities and states, there were millions of other people who were on the move looking for jobs and adventure. This group of people became known as "hoboes." Many of them were not even adults; teenagers and children accounted for a quarter of a million of them. The hoboes even had their own

culture, traditions, mythology, and community. Furthermore, within the hoboes, they had classes. The classes included hoboes, tramps, yeags, and bums. All classes of hoboes could be found in "jungles," which were itinerant communities that sprang up alongside train tracks and outside of towns (Nichi 158). The "jungles" provided much for the hoboes that inhabited them. They provided food, shelter, and company. At night, stories would be exchanged around the communal fire (Nichi 184). Without the "jungles," many people would have been in worse situations.

Distractions

Although there was economic turmoil at home and abroad, Americans found ways to preoccupy themselves. For instance, Americans were able to keep themselves occupied by two world's fairs held in San Francisco and New York (Burg 249-251). Radio was another distraction. As the radio flourished, some of the most popular shows in the history of broadcasting were introduced in the early thirties. Utilizing the radio, several major news events were broadcast. Another distraction was the Hollywood cinema. Five major studios owned the large national theatre chains and dominated the industry: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Twentieth Century-Fox, Paramount Pictures, Warner Brothers, and Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO). Furthermore, literary output was not greatly affected by the Great Depression, construction projects decreased, and classical and proletarian music flourished. As always, sports continued to be a major distraction. Although there were several distractions, the crippled economy was the nation's primary preoccupation (Burg 74-78). Ultimately, the Great Depression was the topic of many people's daily conversations. Furthermore, it was talked about on the radio and depicted in the movies (Nichi 27).

Radio

Today, it is hard for Americans to imagine a time, specifically the 1930s, when not every American family owned a radio. As Roosevelt delivered his fireside chats, often times more than one household joined together to listen. At the same time, stand-up comedians like Jack Benny and Fred Allen and sitcoms like *Fibber McGee and Molly* and *Amos 'n Andy* could be heard over the airwaves. Furthermore, Father Charles Coughlin used *The Golden Hour of the Little Flower* to attract as many as 40 million listeners. The society was also fractured at times; the radio, more so than books or magazines, became a source of "public relations" and helped unify the society (Kaledin 30-1).

Hollywood's "Golden Age"

The American people did not want to have to deal with the suffering of the Great Depression or the problems of other nations. The thirties was Hollywood's golden age. Over 5,000 feature-length films were produced. Some movies offered a message while others chose not to have a message; they simply just provided fun and romance. In 1937, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers had a hit with *Shall We Dance*. In January 1938, one of the most popular animated films of all time, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, was released by Walt Disney; he later released the classic *Fantasia* in 1940. Comedies flourished during the 1930s. Two blockbusters were released in 1939. They were *Gone With the Wind*, with Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, and *The Wizard of Oz*, starring Judy Garland (Burg 249-251). Moreover, *Gone With the Wind* remained to sell well, and mysteries by Erle Stanley Gardner were popular books (Burg 255-8).

1940s: Traveling Times

Devastation

Continuing into the 1940s, Alwayne's relationship with her mother was still rocky. A small amount of joy came into Alwayne's life when her sister and brother gave her a baton. She enrolled in lessons, and some time later, she was chosen to be the head majorette. Her mother continued to behave the same and would not allow her to be one. Devastated, she cried for two straight weeks. While she was in high school, additional joy came from skipping school and going to the movies with her friend. Most of the time the truancy officer would catch them and tell them, "Enjoy the shows girls." The officer told them to enjoy the show because the next day they would have detention.

In 1943, when Alwayne was 17, she became involved with a man from New York who was in the service. As they corresponded through mail, her mother would read their letters. Later on, her mother wanted to know if Alwayne was a virgin; as a result, she scheduled for her an appointment to see a doctor. The doctor told her mother that Alwayne was not a virgin. She became very upset with her daughter and wanted to know whom she had had sex with. Alwayne told her that it was her brother, and her mother was taken aback. No one stood up for Alwayne except her brothers Jim and Ernie. In her eyes, Ernie was her "guardian angel." Throughout their lifetimes, they had a special relationship and were extremely close.

Anderson College

As soon as high school was over, Alwayne thought she would be able to get away from her very domineering mother. In 1945, she went to Anderson College. She knew that she would not have her mother telling her what she could and could not do. At the time, Claudena was a senior, and she allowed Alwayne to room with her. Once Claudena

learned of the trauma Alwayne had endured, she tried to make sure Alwayne received counseling.

Forgiveness

Claudena had a pastor talk to Alwayne and asked if she could forgive the men who had hurt her in life. Alwayne thought she could forgive them, but certain problems still lingered. She was so bitter and had so much hate in her heart, and instead of loving men, she made sure to get even with them. She believed that they had destroyed and taken advantage of her. She wanted to hurt them as they had hurt her. She had so much built up inside because she could not talk to her mother about what her brothers had done to her. Her brothers made sure that she kept quiet. When the ordeals began, Claudena was nine years older, and she did not know what was going on. Alwayne found that one of her brothers had a diary, and he wrote that it had taken him six months to penetrate his "baby sister." She absolutely hated her brother, and all the hate inside of her would later make her apprehensive about men.

"The Good Old Days"

With her past memories still lingering, college offered some nice times in Alwayne's life. She had the opportunity to sing in many places, and she sang at every Church of God. Over time, drama became one of her passions. Alwayne was able to participate in dramatic events because she was in Indiana, thus her mother could not control her actions. She never has forgotten the two drama professors who coached her through her first performance. She really wanted to give a great performance, and they were very critical. They saw that she could achieve much more. Dr. Stone, after she

watched her first performance, urged her to go to New York and get involved with acting.

"Bad Fast Crowd"

While at college, Alwayne was far away enough from her mother that she didn't have to worry about her. In addition, there was only so much control that Claudena could have over Alwayne. Thus, Alwayne fell in with a bad, fast crowd. For entertainment, she snuck out of the dormitories and went to the Paramount Theatre to watch movies, which was an absolute sin in the church. The theatre was the "devil's pit." Her first year at college was filled with some great times, which she will most likely never forget.

The Powells: Mrs. Powell

Alas, her grades were not high enough to allow her to stay in college; as a result, her mother and a Church of God pastor, Mrs. Powell, made other plans for her. Consequently, her college days and "flings" were over. Mrs. Powell had told her mother some stories and had convinced her that she could help Alwayne by having her travel with their family for the summer. Alwayne would soon later find out that she would be a nanny and have an assortment of functions. During Alwayne's stay with the Powells, Mrs. Powell became a second oppressive mother. Mrs. Powell did not like her hair or clothes and told her what she was going to change. She was worse than Alwayne's own mother. Alwayne was a maid, babysitter, housekeeper, and cook. At least at home, she didn't have a baby to look after. She was forced to do what Mrs. Powell wanted; consequently, she went to New York to be a lifeguard for a youth camp. Her entire stay with the Powells had both some bad and good times. Mrs. Powell's son, Donnie, and she

had a lot of fun together. They went horseback riding and swimming. He was the only reason she stayed with the Powells as long as she did.

Ultimately, a Church of God evangelist would be the deciding factor in her decision to leave the Powells. He came to town for a revival service. At the time, she was staying with Andy Powell, Mrs. Powell's husband. She had taken a shower and was going to get dressed. There was no door to her room, and the closet was the only place where she could dress. This evangelist decided that he would come upstairs to change his clothes. She didn't know he was coming. When he came into her room, she was sitting on the edge of the bed in her robe. He picked up Donnie's B.B. gun and "accidentally" poured what was inside onto her lap; he said that he would help her, but she knew better. He said that all he wanted to do was "rap" with her; however, she knew he had different intentions. She told him to go downstairs so that she could get dressed. Alwayne told him that when she was finished dressing, he could then come back up and get dressed himself. As the uncomfortable situation unfolded, she realized that she had to find someway to get home back to Canton, Ohio. Once she had some time to devise a plan, she told Andy that she had a migraine, and she would not be able to make it to the revival. Once everyone was gone, she called her mother and told her that she had to send her a bus ticket to come home. Rightfully upset, she told her mother that if this was church, she did not need it. After her call back home, fortunately, her parents agreed to allow her to come home and bought her a bus ticket. She would finally be able to go back home and be free of the domineering Mrs. Powell.

Back Home Again

Once home, in the fall of 1946, in Canton, Ohio, she found a job downtown in one of the department stores, Stark Dry Goods. This particular department store offered its

customers an array of items. Alwayne worked there from the fall of 1946 to March 1947. She began in the credit department, but that position did not work out, so she moved to the sports department and modeled clothes. Eventually, this job did not suit her either.

World War II

Alwayne and her family were affected by World War II. Alwayne remembers very well the day of December 7, 1941. She was in high school at the time, and she knew that the boys would be going off to war. Often her parents listened to the radio. At the time, people did not have to worry about the draft because the men volunteered to help their country. This was true of Alwayne's family. Three of her brothers, Chuck, John, and Ernie, were in the service. When her brothers left for the war, the family went down to the train station to see them off. The three of them sent letters home. Alwayne's mother kept all the letters that she received, and she collected six boxes full of letters. Her mother would become very upset when six to eight weeks passed and she had not received a letter from them. The letters would be very thin and certain items would be blacked out.

In addition, like other families, they had ration books. There were restrictions on meat and sugar. Thus, when Alwayne's family canned they had to make sure that they had enough sugar and other ingredients. As a result of the war, everyone was for the most part gone at Alwayne's home. The only people still at home were her parents and herself. Alwayne, being the only child at home, was used as a "workhorse." During the war, everyone bought war bonds if they could afford them. Moreover, people could be seen advocating a "V" for victory.

Freedom

Sometime in 1946, when Alwayne was 20, she desperately longed to be on her own. Her oppressive mother and Mrs. Powell had taken exhausted her. She could not tell her mother that she wanted to leave. Without a doubt, her mother would have tried everything to stop her from leaving. As a result, in March of 1947, she left the only way she knew how. She wrote her parents a letter telling them she was leaving to go to New York. She needed money so she stole a hundred dollars, hidden behind a picture, from her mother.

New York City: The City That Never Sleeps

New York City was a really different experience for her. After all, she had only lived in Ohio and been to Indiana and Pennsylvania. New York City was a city that never slept. There was always something going on. Excitement was all around in the Big Apple. As the people came in from the night life, those who worked day jobs were beginning their day. Alwayne was prepared; she knew where she was staying, and she had letters of introduction from a Greek man who ran the Palace Theatre in Canton. Once she was settled at the Martha Washington Hotel, she went to see about getting into show business. Alwayne wanted to become involved with nightclubs.

To earn some money, she modeled for a warehouse where buyers could come see the merchandise. In addition, Alwayne attempted to become a Radio City Rockette. At the auditions, she walked on stage, and the gentleman told her to turn around so that he could see her legs. He then proceeded to tell her to take her shoes off. After she took her shoes off, he saw that she was too short. Thus, she had to find another way to earn money. In regards to fun and entertainment, Alwayne would go to all the clubs, see movies, and a musical or two, which included *Annie Get Your Gun* with Ethel Merman.

At one of the booking agencies, she gave the receptionist her letter, and she was allowed to see Miles Engle. Miles Engle was a booking agent for young actors and actresses; his office was located at the Astor Hotel. He told her that he would see what he could do. Later, he set up appointments for auditions and introduced her to Sano Marco a voice teacher at Carnegie Hall. Marco told her that she had the voice, but she needed to feel what she sang.

"Jet Set"

Miles was a very influential man in Alwayne's life. He took her to the Latin Quarter and introduced her to Sophie Tucker, Teddy Shapiro, and Lou Walters. Sophie Tucker was a nightclub singer, and Teddy Shapiro was her pianist. Lou Walters was the owner of the Latin Quarter. Sometime later, she got involved in a "clique." Her agent introduced her to this particular group of people. The clique was called the "Jet Set," a group of multi-millionaires who used heroin and popped pills. She was scared to death of needles and thought they were crazy for using them, so she just popped pills. After spending some time with the Jet Set, she found herself to be pregnant. (Still to this day, Alwayne does not know who fathered the child.) She knew better than to go home with a bastard.

Thomas Manville

In June of 1947, Alwayne also met Thomas Manville, a childless, multi-millionaire at a party held at his penthouse. He told her that he would give her a million dollars if she would let him have the baby. She told him there was no way he would get her baby. If she could not have the baby, then no one would be able to have the baby either. Thus, she decided that she needed an abortion. Manville was willing to give her anything she wanted: a house, mink coat, car, **anything**. Whenever she needed money,

he just handed it over to her. She was his mistress and traveled all over with him, including his home in New Rochelle, New York. He even wanted her to live in his penthouse. She made it clear to him that all she wanted was enough money to have an abortion. Finally, Manville relented and gave her the money, and she had the abortion.

Alwayne and Manville traveled all over New York State. She never went anywhere besides New York with him because she was afraid that if they went to some far away place, like Paris, he might become angry and leave her. He always carried at least $50,000 all the time and a gun. Manville took her to the Copacabana Club, where big stars often could be seen. On one visit, she, Manville, and Rex Harrison had their pictures taken together. Besides meeting Harrison, Alwayne met Mitzy Gaynor, a dancer and singer, Mary Martin, who performed in South Pacific, Mel Tremaine, a nightclub singer, and Mitch Miller. She continued to be with Manville until he gave her the money for the abortion, but after the abortion, she left him and started to be involved with the Jewish doctor who performed the abortion. The new "clique," the doctor's crowd, loved the race tracks, and they went to Saratoga, the race tracks of race tracks which only ran the month of August.

A new love: Abraham Rosenfield

During a trip back to the nightclub, in 1947, Sophie Tucker was playing, and her pianist, Teddy Shapiro, caught Alwayne's eye. Later the same night, Shapiro came up to her and asked, "Where in the hell did you disappear to?" He had people looking everywhere for her. He asked her to come with him to see his sister upstate. She had to find a car for them and convinced a friend to let her borrow their Buick. She promised the man that she would bring back the car. After she and Shapiro went to see his sister, they brought the car back to the bar. Shapiro later on told her that Sophie wanted to

hear her sing. The same night she met Abraham Rosenfield at the club. He asked her if her name was so and so. At the time, her stage name was Penny Powers. When she was with Manville, her name was Jenny MacDonald. Her other stage name was Lisa Adams. Abraham, "Babe," told her that the FBI was looking for her. Babe attempted to appear as a "knight in shining armor" and offered Alwayne a way out of her predicament with the FBI. Alwayne did not really believe that the FBI was looking for her; she believed that Babe was trying to fool her.

Later in 1947, Babe and Alwayne went to Albany, New York, to see his sister and brother. He asked her if she was with the show at Arrowhead, a nightclub located at Saratoga, and if she wanted to be in show business. Saratoga featured race tracks, casinos, and nightclubs. Unfortunately, her connections had not helped her because she had not stayed in one place long enough for her big break to occur. Moreover, she had been with so many cliques. Babe convinced her that he was going to get her into real show business. He told her that California was where she really needed to go, but they instead went to Georgia. He owned the gambling joints on a carnival show called World of Mirth. The carnival's headquarters was located in New York City. She was thinking that she was getting involved with something like Vaudeville. Babe said what Alwayne wanted to hear, and he convinced her to go with him. She believed everything he had said.

Around October 1947, when Babe and Alwayne were in Georgia, he asked her, "Why don't we just get married?" She spontaneously agreed, and they were married October 6, 1947 in Macon, Georgia. She had only known Babe for six weeks and did not know how old he was until they filled out their marriage license, and the Justice of Peace asked their ages. She told him she was going to be 21, and Babe said that he was 45.

She was absolutely stunned; she had only thought he was about five years older than she was.

After they were married, Babe asked her if she had talked to her parents lately. She knew that her family was going to think she had a rock in her head, but she thought that maybe she needed to call her parents and tell them that she had gotten married. Her mother was extremely upset. When Alwayne called, she asked her mother if she had received the flowers that had been sent to her on Mother's Day. Alwayne's mother said that she had thrown them away and that Alwayne had run away from home. Alwayne could not believe what she was hearing from her mother. She was twenty years old; she was living her life, not her mother's. When she came home, her mother wanted Alwayne to throw the marriage license in first to prove that her daughter had wed. Although there would be hostility at home, she and Babe decided to go to Canton to see her parents.

Once home, she gave her mother the marriage license. She was very upset that Alwayne had married a "damn Jew." Alwayne's mother and Babe did not get along at all. Babe had a fairly decent relationship with her father, and the first time they met, he gave her father a couple hundred dollar bills. Even after they left, Babe continuously sent money to her parents. He always gave her Dad money for groceries. Babe took care of her parents while they were there in Ohio and even after they left.

Carnival Days

Babe and Alwayne left Canton because they had to go back to the carnival headquarters. Between 1947 and 1948, she became pregnant again. Babe said that they were not ready for children. They were busy with the carnival affairs. Babe and Alwayne traveled all over the United States. They usually began in Florida in the winter

months, and then as the weather got warmer, they traveled north to the New England states in Babe's Buick. To Alwayne, traveling was extremely tiring. As they traveled, they stayed in hotels. Babe and Alwayne could not use their real last name, Rosenfield, because of anti-Semitic feelings. As a result, they would register themselves under the name of "Dr. and Mrs. Harris." Alwayne always wondered what would happen if there would ever arise a situation where Babe would be called upon to use his "medical expertise." Babe assured Alwayne that if the situation did occur he would simply claim that he was a dentist.

On Saturday nights, between towns, the carnival train would be loaded up with the equipment for the carnival. Usually, the next town was 300 to 400 miles away, and Babe and Alwayne would travel all night. Alwayne sang and danced in the carnival. Babe sold various items, baby dolls, leopard blankets, stuffed animals, and lamps. In the late 1940s, carnival items, like most products, were still very cheap.

During their traveling times, Alwayne went to the doctor, who told her that she would lose the baby if she did not stay settled. She would have to give up traveling with the carnival. Therefore, she went to stay with her mother. Babe told her that he would send her money every week until the show was finished. She was home for maybe three weeks, and then, she started to have severe cramps. Unfortunately, although Babe eventually realized that if they were going to have children, it would be best if they began their family sooner rather than later. After all, he was already in his 40s. Alwayne did not know Babe's new feelings about beginning a family; as a result, she did not prevent herself from having the miscarriage. Consequently, she went back to New York and started traveling all over again.

Saratoga: race tracks of race tracks

In 1949, Babe and Alwayne went back to Saratoga, where Babe could exercise his love of the crap tables and horse racing. Babe was confident, and he told her that they were going to hit it big. With their winnings, Babe assured Alwayne that they would be able to settle down and start a family. However, he did not know at the time that she was pregnant. Being an aggressive gambler, on one night he won more than $100,000. He began the night with about $1,000 to $2,000. Unfortunately, at the end of the night, he had lost it all. Alwayne was grateful that she had asked him for five one hundred dollar bills.

Discrimination

She and Babe faced racial discrimination among both of their families. When they went to see his dad's brother, the family asked, "What did you marry? A damn Gentile?" Babe's family were orthodox Jews. Orthodox Jews and Gentiles did not mix. If a Jew married a Gentile, they ostracized you, and you were dead to them. They later visited Babe's aunt. During their visit, Alwayne did not want anything to eat. His aunt asked if she was alright. She thought that she had to be pregnant. Babe had to go back to New York to straighten things out, so she stayed with his sister. She definitely knew she was pregnant. She went to the same doctor, and he told her she was pregnant. She definitely had to settle down and stay put. Once again, she asked her mom if she could come home. Babe would finish the show up until November, and he would come later. The 1950s would bring more change for Alwayne.

1940s

Beginning of 1940s

At the beginning of 1940, Americans were involved in the usual activities. They were going to the movies to see *Gone With the Wind*, Rose Bowl predictions were discussed, and they were listening to roadhouse jukeboxes to hear Wee Bonnie Barker's "Oh, Johnny! Oh!," and they were contemplating whether FDR would decide to run for a third term or if he would quit. If the war was thought about at all, Americans most likely considered the fighting abroad as someone else's problem. Americans held fast to the pledge of neutrality made by the government in the 1930s. According to a poll conducted in December 1939, two-thirds of the public were opposed to taking sides in the war; however, others were watching the situation closely (Somerville 31-2).

Life before the war

Most Americans did not own cars before World War II. In addition, phones or radios were not common. It was also common for different generations and adult siblings to live near each other; this was often an economic necessity. Children were raised by their parents and grandparents, and mixed generations and single aunts and uncles made up the nuclear family. Unmarried children lived at home until they married and brought home their salaries to share with the whole family. Boarders or lodgers, considered family members, also contributed to the income pool. Closely connected ethnic groups lived in the same neighborhoods in big cities; they lived like this for both spiritual and material support. As most young people were eager to become more "American," others tried to keep and enjoy rituals that helped them connect with their immigrant origins (Kaledin 15-16). After the war, the whole sense of community disappeared. As the soldiers returned, supermarkets began to replace the

small groceries and bakeries that sold salami and crusty bread. The loss of ethnic groups was probably speeded up the war, but the loss defines all Americans (Kaledin 16-17).

The Teenagers

The first indication of the existence of a youth counterculture in America can be traced to the jitterbug. Teenagers had their own dance and their own uniform which included zoot suits. Teens thought the zoot suits, from England, made them look older. Teen "nightclubs" began to appear in metropolitan areas. In *Billboard* magazine's Collegiate Choice popularity poll of male vocalists in 1940, Frank Sinatra placed 22nd. In 1941, he was the most popular singer in the country. He can be credited with creating the entirely new phenomenon of the teen idol; America's first fanatical teenage movement had begun. Teenagers were able to do more because of the fact that they had more money and more things were available to buy. Cars were within their grasp. Furthermore, cheap gasoline made automobile excursions a popular pastime. The Andrews Sisters, Laverne, Maxine, and Patti, became one of the most popular singing groups among teenagers (Klotzbach 32-5).

Bright Lights and Difficult Times

The year 1941 was a time of bright-lights-big-city fast and easy night life. The famous *Life* magazine cover of Rita Hayworth epitomized the emphasis on glamorous sexuality. The golden age of sleek evening dresses, designed for nightclubbing at 21, the Stork Club, El Morocco, El Gaucho, Leon and Eddie's, the Copacabana, the Latin Quarter, and Toots Shor's, occurred in the early '40s. In addition, New York became the world center of nightlife; all the great cities of Europe were blacked out at night

(Klotzbach 38-9). An affluence not seen since the Roaring Twenties was enjoyed by Americans in the 1940s. The issue of racial equality was brought to the forefront of America's consciousness. The Great Depression was slow in passing for many; Americans were still experiencing hard times. Throughout the '40s, the issue of want in an abundant America remained (Klotzbach 40-44).

Continuing Leadership: A Third Term

In 1940, Roosevelt became the first incumbent ever to seek a third term. Wendell Willkie from Indiana became the Republican party's nominee. Willkie's running mate was Senate minority leader Charles McNary. Although this was an election year, on everyone's mind was the American role in the war. (Burg 256-8). As it became clear that Roosevelt had won the election, he set about securing aid for Britain. CBS correspondent Edward R. Murrow had a broadcast every evening from London. He opened with, "This...is London." Americans became familiar with this opening, and they heard the wail of air-raid sirens, the scream of German bombs, and the thunder of antiaircraft fire (Somerville 33-7). Willkie believed that if Roosevelt was reelected the United States would be at war by April 1941. This belief made Roosevelt hit the campaign trail. In a speech delivered by Roosevelt in Boston on October 30th, Roosevelt made a statement that would eventually haunt him: "I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." Roosevelt was reelected, receiving 27 million popular votes, and Willkie received 22 million (Burg 260-1).

The election campaign was accompanied by the chain of events that would undo Roosevelt's promises to keep America out of the war. Germany, Italy, and Japan formed the Tripartite Pact near the end of September. They all three agreed to come to the aid

of any other of the three that became involved in war with the United States. Hitler had much he wanted to accomplish. In December, Hitler and his top commanders prepared for Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the U.S.S.R. (Burg 262).

Arms production & Lend-Lease program

During the beginning of the 1940s, American industry was developing at a rapid pace. American industrial production was being driven by events in Europe. At the same time that the United States was beginning to speed up arms and munitions production, other nations were anxiously seeking American arms and supplies. Americans knew the production orders meant jobs; factories worked overtime. The first transfer of American arms and ammunition to Britain began in 1939 with the policy known as Cash and Carry, which was later expanded to the Lend-Lease program (Klotzbach 15-6).

America's response to the events in Europe was weak. Winston Churchill was one leader who requested American aid. Roosevelt's response was cautious. By early June, additional armaments were loaded aboard British ships at New York and other ports. The possibility and consequences of German control of the British and French fleets deeply concerned Roosevelt (Burg 253-6).

Relations Abroad

Another plea for help came from Churchill (Burg 263-4). As 1941 progressed, it seemed that war with Hitler was unavoidable. In addition, the United States' relationship with Japan had deteriorated. Americans were eager to hear news about events in Europe . British-American relations were fostered by the easy rapport between Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt. The progress of

the war in Europe garnered a keen interest and sympathies in Americans (Klotzbach 46-50).

1940s: War Culture

"The day that will live in infamy"

On June 22, the war's most significant event transpired. The Germans invaded the Soviet Union. The invasion created quite a dilemma for the American public and president. America debated supporting the U.S.S.R. Churchill immediately pledged the British government because he was pleased to have any ally against the Germans. Relations between Roosevelt and Churchill strengthened at their meeting in August. The meeting led some to believe America would soon participate in the war (Burg 267-9). People most likely thought that Germany would provoke the United States into entering the war; however, it was Japan who finally made the United States do so (Burg 269-271).

"AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR—THIS IS NO DRILL"

On December 7, 1941, the following telegram reached the White House: "AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR—THIS IS NO DRILL." The news reached most Americans via radio. At first, some were certain that it was just another hoax perpetuated by Orson Welles, but on December 8, 1941, Roosevelt stood before a joint session of Congress, and he declared that a state of war existed between America and Japan. Americans became jittery as they prepared for the air raids and invasion many felt certain would come (Somerville 38-42). Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941 a "date which will live in infamy," and he asserted that "the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory." Fulfilling the Tripartite Pact, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States (Burg 271-2).

"Casablanca"

Roosevelt made the following statement in December 1941: "The American motion picture is one of our most effective mediums in informing and entertaining our citizens. The motion picture must remain free insofar as national security will permit. I want no censorship of the motion picture." Every aspect of the war was brought home to American audiences by Hollywood. Americans, the movies emphasized, were truly involved in a global conflict. Inspired movies were produced by Hollywood. *Casablanca* was the superb example of just how good Hollywood wartime movies could be. There were weeks when the Times Square news ticker was without repeating a headline because news was gathered in such volume during the days after Pearl Harbor (Klotzbach 100-3).

Massive Patriotism

When war was declared, military recruiting stations remained open around the clock because so many young men rushed to join. The army, navy, and marines signed up nearly 25,000 recruits. Recruits were exposed to a world of inch-long doctor's needles and half-inch crewcuts, uniforms that seldom fit and shoes that constantly had to be spit-shined. The recruits endured reveille, night marches, sergeants who screamed, and KP "kitchen police" duty, and they learned a new lingo. In addition, they wore World War I-vintage helmets and practiced combat with cardboard artillery and trucks hung with placards (Somerville 46-9).

Rush to Enlist

When loved ones enlisted, an intoxicating blend of exhilaration and pride happened. People from all walks of life, including celebrities, did their part for the war effort. Shut-ins sold bonds by telephone. Schoolkids scoured alleyways and empty lots

in search of tin cans and other scrap metal. The daily routine included ration books. War stamps that could be converted to war bonds were sold by street-corner booths (Klotzbach 62-7).

Young Brides

After Pearl Harbor, both the number of recruits and the marriage rate soared. It was estimated that 1,000 women a day were marrying servicemen. Among the uncertainties of war, young couples sought an emotional anchor. Wait and worry followed by wives and parents. They followed the news, trying to imagine what their loved ones were going through. The mail was watched for letters. Everyone dreaded the arrival of a telegram that began, "We regret to inform you...." (Somerville 49).

"V": sign of victory

In 1941, Belgian refugee Victor de Lavaleye suggested that patriots should use the letter *V*, the first letter in *victory* in almost every European language. Americans joined the campaign doing everything from wearing victory pins to tapping V in Morse code on drinking glasses. The two-fingered "V for victory" salute became the symbol of the Allies' unshakable resolve. Eventually, everyone from schoolchildren to Hollywood stars copied the gesture. The range of products for the victory campaign included tote bags, inspirational buttons, v-shaped pins and brooches, playing cards with dictators' faces, food cartons, posters for window displays, and drinking glasses (Somerville 50-1).

Good-byes

Poignant scenes of farewell became familiar all across the nation as America said goodbye to its fighting men. Posters urged recruits to set aside differences for the sake of victory. Volunteers, carrying banners and bordered by recruiters, often marched to

the recruiting center. Church and civic organizations sponsored the United Service Organizations (USO) centers to provide a wholesome place where soldiers could meet their families or spend off-duty time. USO shows were also provided to bases (Klotzbach 68-72).

Pride of America

In the 1940s, as America went to war, Americans sent the pride of America. Young soldiers were at their physical peak, fresh faced but purposeful, innocent but somehow ready for the task at hand. The soldiers were confident as they took on the burdens of America. The soldiers later would become exhausted and energized, and they would feel fear and show courage. Friendships were made and lost. Soldiers were wounded and maimed, and many of them died. The American spirit, which could be seen in the faces of the soldiers sent off to war, can be credited with helping the soldiers achieve victory (Somerville 29).

Fear of what is to come

Americans were taught by Pearl Harbor that they could expect anything. People in California, Oregon, and Washington considered themselves to be in "the Pacific Front Line" the first two years of war. Nazi submarines sank ships on the East Coast, and coastal dwellers along the Atlantic became accustomed to sudden, brilliant flashes of explosions lighting up the night sky. The possibility that the Germans would launch small planes from U-boats to bomb them worried residents. For the first time in history, the early days of the war forced Americans to look into the face of defeat (Klotzbach 74-8).

Aftermath of Pearl Harbor

During the four years following the Pearl Harbor attack, the country would undergo profound and lasting change. Following the attack, "most of the country reacted in a similar manner: disbelief, stunned silence, then an unbridled rush of American energy." An unfamiliar mixture of shock, deep sorrow, fear, fierce anger, grim determination, and feverish energy were experienced by most Americans. People everywhere participated in Civil Air Patrol or blood banks or victory gardens. Parlor games grew in popularity, and a 1942 survey revealed that cards were played in 87 percent of American homes. *Guadalcanal Diary* and *They Were Expendable* were read by high school students, and most of them could tell you that Aunt Jemina was the nickname for a high explosive that was being smuggled by Americans to Chinese saboteurs behind Japanese lines. The fact that it was a people's war we were fighting was a reminder sent to Americans from Hollywood. Women went into factories all across the land. Latin music was heard everywhere during wartime. More than 5 million people left farms to live and work in cities or to work at defense jobs between Pearl Harbor and V-E Day. Oftentimes, everyone in a family was involved in the war. A family of four could have a son in the armed forces, the father in civilian defense, the mother in a war job, and the daughter in volunteer service. The complicated ration system was explained in newspapers:

> Tomorrow—coffee coupon No. 25 expires. Last Day to use No. 4 "A" coupon, good for four gallons of gasoline.
> March 25—processed food stamps for April, D, E, and F in Ration Book No. 2 becomes valid. The monthly quota of 48 points remains unchanged. Budget these through April 30 (Klotzbach 61).

War Production

The war had an effect on war production and military lingo. American war production had reached the level it would maintain for the remainder of the conflict by midsummer 1942. A series of acronyms borrowed from the military appropriately described the chaos. The series included: *snafu* (situation normal, all fouled up), *tarfu* (things are really fouled up), and *fubar* (fouled up beyond all recognition). Union rallies were used to both boost morale and address grievances (Klotzbach 80-3).

Female Patriotism: WAACs

On May 27, 1942, which was the opening day of registration for the Women's Army Auxillary Corps (WAAC), recruiters were caught off guard. Women were eager to contribute to the war effort and to prove their bravery. By the end of the war, more than 300,000 women would join Uncle Sam in U.S. Marine, Navy, and Coast Guard units. In addition, they worked every job from cook and typist to truck driver and airplane mechanic. Although women were forbidden to fire a gun in combat, they proved themselves able to keep up with the men (Somerville 58).

Female MPs usually got better cooperation from soldiers than male ones. The WAACs recruited heavily throughout the war and offered generous benefits. A professional all-woman baseball league was created. The sobriquet Rosie the Riveter was born by hundreds of hardworking patriotic women. "Rosie the Riveter" was based on Rose Monroe by J. Howard Miller. Eleanor Roosevelt helped the status of women (Klotzbach 89-94).

Events of 1943 to 1945

In 1943, the major events included the German invasion, Operation Husky, of Sicily, and Operation Gomorrah (Somerville 78-91). In 1944, the turning point of the

war, the Allies focused on Italy. Of particular interest was the "Gustav Line." Later on, the victory in Normandy led to the liberation of France, and on August 25, Free French armored forces entered Paris (Somerville 105-118). The Battle for Leyte Gulf, between the Japanese and Americans, began on October 24, 1944. The Japanese lost the battle (Somerville 121-2). A battle of significance involving the Germans was named the Battle of the Bulge. The battle marked the U.S. Army's largest single action in the war (Somerville 124-7).

Unspeakable Conditions

In their final meeting, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin came together at Yalta. They coordinated their final offensives against the Third Reich. The British and American troops fought their way to the Rhine River. In April, British and American troops began to liberate concentration camps. The Germans had imprisoned not only Jews but Russian and Polish prisoners of war, Gypsies, homosexuals, criminals, Communists, and other political dissidents. The first western camp liberated was at Ohrdruf. Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, and General George Patton visited Ohrdruf and were revolted. Bradley was speechless, Patton was so repulsed that he vomited, and Eisenhower sent cables to London and Washington urging journalists and legislators to visit the camp so they could see the dire situation. On the same day that Eisenhower visited the Ohrdruf camp, President Roosevelt died, and on this same day, the end drew closer for German forces. Eisenhower later was able to relay the momentous news to his superiors in London and Washington with the following succinct message: "The mission of this Allied force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, May 7, 1945" (Somerville 138-145).